

Course: SLIS 711-Fall 2019

Instructor: Edward Blessing

Assignment: Site Visit and Interview

Due date: 11:59 pm, October 21

Grade Value: 15 points

In order to discover if you actually want to *be* an archivist, or to help you decide what kind of archivist you want to be, you need to do more than engage with the literature: it is time to get out and meet people! Visit an archival institution, get a behind-the-scenes tour, observe their process (or have it explained to you), and interview someone who does “archival” work. If you currently work in an archival institution, please visit a different one.

For the purpose of this assignment the definition of “archive” means an archival repository. This means the institution you visit could be a document or object archive (i.e., a museum). ***The expectation is that you will physically travel to an institution; if you are unable to do so please contact me as soon as possible and we can discuss how you might otherwise complete this assignment.***

You will conclude this assignment by writing a 3-4 page paper summarizing the visit and interview, reflecting critically about how this makes you feel about this type of archival work, and describing how this visit has impacted your career plans/goals. Please attach as appendices any documentation you gathered from your site visit about the institution visited, and/or the CV of the person you interviewed; these do not count towards the 3-4 pages of your written submission.

When you first contact someone working at an archival institution of your choosing, I suggest providing them with a copy of this assignment so they understand their role. Also, please be understanding of their time constraints.

Grading Criteria:

The paper **summarizes the institution** visited as well as the role the interviewee plays in that institution.

Instructor Comment:

There is demonstration of **critical reflection** and expression of personal feelings regarding the type of archival work described.

In conclusion, the paper describes how you think this assignment has **impacted** your future career.

The paper is 3-4 pages long.